

Upham School Newsletter

2 May 2025



Photo: Class 2 on their trip, playing a pollination game!

Mon 5 May – Bank Holiday
 Mon 12 – Fri 16 May – Year 6 SATs Week
 Mon 26- Fri 30 - May Half Term
 Mon 2 June – INSET Closure Day
 Tues 3 June – First day back of Summer II

A few words from the headteacher...

School council have been organising names to give our classes, you will remember how they encouraged ideas from the children. They shortlisted three ideas which all the children got to vote on just before half term. The most popular choice was British Mammals, specifically those which are found in our locality and therefore the habitats around us (though not necessarily on the school site). See them below. This week teachers made final adjustments to the animal choices so that there is a coherence across the school. The animals progress in size – which school council thought was logical and helpful for everyone to remember, and the words ‘work’ – for example, nobody would want to be in weasel class, because of the word!

I will make use of images like these in the newsletter which will also help you navigate relevant information easily. It will take a while to get used to so when I refer to the classes, I will write the year groups as well eg ‘Hedgehogs (Yrs 3&4)’, so it’s clear!

Class 4 = Badgers

Class 3 = Hedgehogs



Class 2 = Squirrels

Class 1 = Dormice

Class 2 Trip to Hilliers Gardens

Class 2 enjoyed a lovely sunny day at Hilliers Gardens this week. This trip was all about understanding plant growth and life cycles, part of their Scientific learning. With a guide, they played lots of games, completed lots of activities and explored the different types of plants growing (as in the picture). Thinking about new contexts, such as that bamboo is still a plant, is exactly what the ‘Open your minds’ part in our vision means.



Look Out for Next Week...

We are hoping to send out Absence Overview information for the Spring Term which has just gone, next week. It will be very similar information to that sent in January so you can see what your child’s current absence looks like.

The aim should be to avoid absence higher than 3%. Sometimes this is unavoidable, such as due to a more serious illness such as chickenpox or hospitalisation. If this happened in the Autumn you should be able to see how a return to more usual patterns has improved the overall amount. Levels of absence higher than 10% are classified by the DfE as ‘persistently absent’ so if your child has fallen into this category I will have added a comment at the bottom of the report.



INSET Days for 24/25:

- Mon 2 Sept
- Fri 25 Oct
- Mon 6 Jan 25
- Mon 24 Feb 25
- Mon 2 June 25

Communication this week:

Tues – email to all re half term clubs in area

Warm weather means abandoned clothing

A symptom of the nice warm weather we are experiencing is that children tend to take off a jumper or cardigan and then leave them randomly outside (see photo). If we find any and it has a name in, we can easily reunite with its owner but if it doesn't we don't really stand a chance. We tend to leave them where they are in the hope someone might remember where they left it. If your child doesn't come home with something that you are expecting, please feel free to send them back in to find it.



*Don't Forget
Bank Holiday
Monday 5th May*

Reminder: Year 5 & 6 Snack during SATs Week

If your child would like a playtime cooked snack during SATs week, this needs to be booked for and paid within Arbor, by 8 May.

Class 1 Trip to Longdown Activity Farm

Class 1 had a lovely day at the farm yesterday. It was rather warm so a picnic lunch in the shade of a large tree was very welcome. They met lots of different animals; fed the goats, collected eggs from the chickens, held chicks, bottle fed calves (picture) and met a horse! All of this learning is about building awareness of farms and farming as a process, an important thread that runs through our whole school curriculum.

